

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method to provide incentives for client machines
5 to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer
network, the method comprising:
 receiving requests for information from a plurality
of client machines;
 determining if the client machines are contributing
10 resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and
 sending the requested information to the client
machines, wherein priority is given to requests from
clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer
sharing.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of
giving priority to client machines which contribute
resources to peer-to-peer sharing further comprises
giving higher priority in proportion to the level of
20 resources contributed.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer
sharing comprise:
25 disk space;
 bandwidth;
 CPU resources;
 memory; and
 specified number of connecting users.

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4. A method for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

contributing computer resources to peer-to-peer
5 sharing technology;

requesting information from a network server,
wherein the request is given priority in proportion to
the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer
sharing; and

10 receiving the requested information.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;
15 bandwidth;
CPU resources;
memory; and
specified number of connecting users.

20 6. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, to provide incentives for client machines to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the computer program product comprising:

25 instructions for receiving requests for information from a plurality of client machines;

instructions for determining if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and

instructions for sending the requested information
30 to the client machines, wherein priority is given to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing.

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7. The computer program product according to claim 6,
wherein the instructions for giving priority to client
machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer
5 sharing further comprise instructions for giving higher
priority in proportion to the level of resources
contributed.

8. The computer program product according to claim 6,
10 wherein the resources client machines may contribute to
peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;
bandwidth;
CPU resources;
15 memory; and
specified number of connecting users.

9. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for use in a data processing system, for accessing
20 information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the
method comprising:

instructions for contributing computer resources to
peer-to-peer sharing technology;

instructions for requesting information from a
25 network server, wherein the request is given priority in
proportion to the level of resources contributed to
peer-to-peer sharing; and

instructions for receiving the requested
information.

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